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Artifacts from 41SA38 in the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory Collections

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Timothy K. Perttula

Site 41SA38 (ET-692) was recorded in February 1940 by Gus Arnold of the University of Texas as part of the WPA-sponsored archaeological survey of East Texas (Perttula 2016a-b). The site was identified on a natural alluvial rise in a freshly plowed floodplain on the west side of Ayish Bayou, about 1 km southwest of the city of San Augustine, Texas.

During Arnold's survey investigations, he collected a few surface artifacts over the ca. 0.5 acre alluvial rise. The artifacts in the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory at The University of Texas at Austin collections include three aboriginal ceramic sherds and a gunflint.

Two of the aboriginal ceramic sherds are plain body sherds from bone-tempered vessels; the thickness of the sherd body walls range from 5.1-8.6 mm, indicating they are from different vessels. The third sherd is a bone-tempered rim sherd (6.9 mm thick) from a jar with an everted profile and a rounded lip. The jar rim has horizontal brushing marks. The use of bone temper in the three sherds from 41SA38 is consistent with the heavy use of bone temper in previously studied ceramic assemblages from the nearby Mission Dolores (Avery 2016:59).

The gunflint is a spall type made from a blonde-yellow or beeswax chert or flint that likely originates in France (Hamilton 1979:210). Avery (2016:73) notes a few small chips from gunflints at Mission Dolores from the same blonde-yellow flint. The gunflint is 21.0 mm in width and 22.1 mm in length, with a 19.0 mm working edge; the heel is about 7.0 mm wide, and the gunflint itself is 8.7 mm thick. There are several flake scars on the dorsal surface.

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